



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California National Guard Soldiers Return from Sinai

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Soldiers from 3-160th Infantry Battalion will return home Tuesday, January 31, from a 12 month tour of duty in Sinai. This unit was part of the Multi-National Forces & Observers Group (MFO), a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Sinai.

Working out of Northern and Southern Camps in the Sinai, their primary mission was to support continued peace accords between Egypt and Israel. They supported humanitarian projects and promoted stability and security within the region. The unit participated in security and defensive operations during the October 2005 bombings where multi-national forces were injured. Their multi-national mission success was attributed to the dedication and professionalism of the soldiers. The unit took first place in the Multi-National Forces Olympics held in the summer of 2005. The purpose of the Multi-Force Olympics is to hone soldiers' skills and generates camaraderie among Task Force soldiers in a healthy competitive contest and keeps them ready and proficient in their mission of maintaining the "Treat of Peace" negotiated between Israel and Egypt. This was the first time in recorded MFO history where a National Guard unit took first place against active duty unit. Also noteworthy was the attainment of the coveted Expert Infantryman's Badge by four of the battalion's soldiers. Unit members were able to build rapport and lifelong friendships with other foreign soldiers.

Soldiers are being flown in to various airports throughout the State of California in numbers of 1 thru 5.

Bakersfield: 35 soldiers are scheduled to arrive at Fresno Airport and are being transferred to Bakersfield Armory at 1512 South P Street, Bakersfield, CA for welcome home ceremony at 1300.

Inglewood: 46 soldiers are scheduled to arrive at Los Angeles Airport and are being transferred to Inglewood Armory at 111 Grosvenor Street, Inglewood, CA for welcome home ceremony at 18:30.

Media is invited to attend and for more information should contact SGT Mario Lopez at 661-395-2821 for Bakersfield location and SSG Candelario Carrizales 805-431-3866 Inglewood location.